



News From

JACK DOYLE

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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DOYLE HOLDS YOUTH ASSET SUMMIT

More than 800 youth/adults gather for asset building initiative.

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle, in cooperation with County Legislators, will host a Monroe County Youth Asset Summit tomorrow, Tuesday, March 20, 3:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency, downtown.

The summit focuses on the County's Positive Youth Development initiative through the asset approach and will bring together more than 800 local youth, adults, government officials, business leaders and asset coordinators to facilitate the exchange of information on building assets in young people.

"Monroe County is committed to the coordination and collaboration among communities as they work to improve the well-being of all youth through the asset approach," said Doyle. "This is an ideal way to celebrate each community's asset initiative. It will also give our youth and community leaders an opportunity to share their priorities for youth development and develop action plans to take back to their communities."

The five-hour summit will feature a guest speaker, youth presentations, interactive activities, displays, and group discussions, along with refreshments and a boxed dinner. Mark Scharenbroich, a renowned presenter and motivational speaker for youth and adults will be the keynote speaker. Scharenbroich has conducted programs in more than 2,500 schools throughout North America, authored three award winning educational films, and has won an Emmy for his performance in an ABC television special "Doing Great".

In the fall of 1998, 18 public school districts in Monroe County participated in the Search Institute's Survey of Student Resources and Assets in their middle schools. Since that time, communities have been focusing on the 40 developmental assets to ensure that young people have the solid foundation they need to become tomorrow's competent, caring adults.

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“In order for youth to succeed, adults need to assume more responsibility for supporting children and families,” said Doyle. “Inter-generational activities and programs have been proven to be effective in keeping youth connected to their communities and this summit will help to reinforce that.”

Monroe County and its surrounding communities have made significant progress in the Positive Youth Development initiative through the asset building approach. Examples include the Youth Participation Project, Youth As Resources program, the Youth Vision mentoring program in Webster Schools, the Prevention Partner's RAYS (Rochester Area Youth Shine) program, the Center for Youth Service's Kid's Care, and the Youth Bureau/United Way's Youth Development measurement project.

The Monroe County Youth Summit is a collaborative effort between Monroe County Government, elected officials and local leaders. Key players include Special Counsel to the County Executive Jim Mulley; Monroe County Youth Bureau Director Steven Wickmark; Monroe County Probation Department Administrator Bob Burns; Legislator Wayne Zyra, 2nd District; Legislator Bob Zink, 13th District; Legislator Karla Boyce, 12th District; Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Carpenter; Webster Town Supervisor Cathryn Thomas; Perinton Town Supervisor Jim Smith; Sweden Town Supervisor Nat Lester; Clarkson Town Supervisor Paul Kimball; Hamlin Town Supervisor Austin Warner; School Superintendents Bill Cala (Fairport), Tom Strining (Webster), Steve Waltz (Greece); and Mayor Clark King (Fairport).

The summit is being held by invitation only. Local youth and adults were identified as leaders in the asset initiative and were invited to attend. Through their participation in the summit, these individuals will be further empowered to encourage others to embrace Positive Youth Development and implement new asset building initiatives in their communities.

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*For further information, call:
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